

Home Audio Recording Setup Equipment / Software suggested list

First question is ALWAYS: Apple or Windows Machine? Your computer is the brains to the operation. It needs to have LOTS of RAM and a strong processor. It needs stability. In the words of one producer: “Both platforms have their own advantages and disadvantages. It may depend on your budget, productivity, your digital audio workstation (DAW) choice - or your own preferences. For a stable system to use exclusively for music production and audio recording go with the MAC, hands down. MACs just aren’t competing in certain markets such as gaming computers.”

And from another professional producer: “I had been using Windows to produce my own music since I was 16 years old. As my needs evolved with time, I progressively upgraded my computer’s components to keep up with the software / hardware demand. However, I began to realize that there was always some resistance using Windows because there were ALWAYS issues to deal with. Sometimes, I spent more time putting out computing fires than I did actually making music, so this was a huge roadblock for my creative workflow. Windows OS was designed to run on a variety of different computers assembled by different manufacturers, all containing different components. The reason I believe Windows experiences more errors than Apple is simply because there is no continuity amongst computer systems.”

Me personally? I use Apple computers at home and office. And most producers I know and most studios I visit run Apple computers. ***You have to make your own choice.*** I don’t get in the middle of the whole “Apple vs. PC / Chevy vs. Ford” thing! SEE: <https://youtu.be/-sPbcTcUmcl>

Whatever computer have or intend to get, be sure it can run the Pro Tools software package. Check the AVID website to see what the Pro Tools system requirements are. Current Pricing for Pro Tools is around \$300 (education pricing) to own, or \$99 per year (paid annually). See Avid website for current pricing and details. I also have Logic and Garage Band on my computers.

Recording setup (besides the computer)

The intent of this list is to be a *starting point*. You can definitely spend a lot more money! In addition, prices listed are based on September 2020 prices and subject to change. Connecting wires, stands, furniture are not listed here.

GOOD - \$600+ (ish)

- *USB Audio interface:* Focusrite Scarlett 2i2 - \$170
- *Microphone:* Shure SM 58 - \$100. (don’t forget to get a mic stand for your space)
- *Closed-back Headset:* Beyerdynamic DT 240 Pro - \$79, Sony MDR-7506 - \$100
- *MIDI controller keyboard:* M-Audio keystation 49 MK3 - \$119, M-Audio Oxygen 25 \$129
- *Basic monitor speakers:* Presonus Eris E3 - \$100 pair

(*note*: many stores create “bundles” that include interface, a microphone and headset, but they often include a cheap microphone, cheap headset, or both. Those are not designed to save you money as much as they are put together to maximize store profit. I tend to not recommend unless you know what you are getting).

BETTER - \$1500 (ish)

- *USB Audio Interface*: Focusrite 4i4 Gen3 - \$230
- *Microphone*: AT2035 - \$149, Rode NT1-A - \$229 (don't forget to get a mic stand for your space)
- *Closed-back Headset*: Beyerdynamic DT770 Pro (80ohm) - \$159; Sennheiser HD300 Pro - \$200
- *MIDI controller keyboard*: Native Instruments S49 - \$669, Korg D1 88 - \$669
- *Monitor Speakers*: M-Audio BX5D3 - \$149 each; Yamaha HS5 - \$200 each
- Monitor isolation pads: Auralex MoPADs - \$500 (be sure they fit your speakers)

BEST - \$4500++

- *USB Audio Interface*: UA Apollo 10x6 - \$899, Focusrite Clarett 10x20 - \$869
- *Microphone*: Shure SM7B - \$399. plus a 1-channel Cloudlifter - \$149 (you'll need both); Rode NT2-A (does it all) - \$399; Neumann U47 - \$3999.00. (don't forget to get a mic stand for your space)
- *Closed-back Headset*: Beyerdynamic DT1990 Pro - \$599; Sennheiser HD800 S - \$1700
- *MIDI controller*: Native Instruments Komplete Kontrol S88 w/ Komplete 12 Ultimate: \$2050 (you can spend less by getting smaller keyboard – 61 key or 49 key)
- *Monitor Speakers*: ADAM Audio T7V - \$249 ea; KALI Audio IN-5 \$349 ea. (you can spend WAY MORE \$\$ here, but these are very industry-standard for those who can afford or those who are earning their dinner!!)
- IsoAcoustics isolation stands for studio monitors: \$110 + (must be sized to the specific speakers you purchase)

As you can see there are LOTS of choices (this is just a starter list). You can ALWAYS spend more. However...

The biggest mistake I see is spending money in the wrong areas, so – *invest in the brains first (a solid computer)*. Careful research and then learning how to use what you purchase can save lots of \$\$ down the road.

resources: Sweetwater.com (very knowledgeable), Guitar Center(local), B&H

Good luck, happy music making, email me if you have questions!!